

TALKING ABOUT VOTING AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Why I'm voting for climate solutions candidates

News coverage is saturated with the November 2018 elections, and you are likely to be getting drawn into related discussions. If you care about climate change, and want to persuade people to vote on it, you'll need to be thoughtful and careful. You can be definitive without causing conflict. You can also be persuasive and at the same time acknowledge that climate may not be someone's top voting priority. The following are talking points to help you speak with family, friends, and colleagues.

1. **I'm really looking forward to this election.** We have some big decisions and big divisions in America right now, and we need to move in a better direction.
2. **Our votes seem to matter more today.** There is a lot at stake, and important recent elections were decided by only 1 or 2% of the vote.
3. **There are several issues we all worry about, and I'm getting more concerned about climate change.** All those families' lives getting disrupted by the hurricanes, floods, big wildfires, and heat waves - it is tragic and devastating. Nearly all of us have been impacted in one way or another. (Talk about the real, lived experience of how you or your loved ones have been impacted.)
4. **Immigration, our economy, and healthcare are important too, and they all seem to be made worse by climate change.** Pollution hurts the health of millions of people, costs us billions of dollars, and causes people to migrate to new places.
5. **There's still time to do something about it and leave our kids with a healthy, safe, and beautiful world full of thriving nature.** Clean energy costs less and less pollution helps reduce asthma, allergies, and disease.
6. **Climate solutions require policies and policymakers that put public health and healthy nature first.** We need leaders who want to help bring America together again and head in the right direction.
7. **So that's why I'm making climate change a priority in my voting.** I will vote for the candidate who will get Republicans and Democrats to work together on climate solutions. I hope you will join me in doing the same.

COUNTERPOINTS

Following are arguments that people might give on why climate change may not be their top voting priority, along with suggested responses.

- 1. I'm more concerned about other issues.**
Response: We all vote based on our values and concerns. It can be hard to pick among differing priorities. But, caring for our climate is caring for ourselves, our family, our community, and future generations. When we vote for climate progress, we are choosing to support progress on multiple issues.
- 2. I want less government, not more.**
Response: Transitioning to clean energy means less pollution, fewer storms, wildfires and floods, and less government and spending to fix it all. Right now we are experiencing increasing billion dollar weather disasters that require FEMA response and other agency support. Fixing the damages from pollution, fossil fuel use and climate change requires more government than is needed for prevention.
- 3. Clean energy and solving climate change will cost a lot of money.**
Response: Communities across America are learning that smart investments in clean energy protect our health, attract new business, create jobs, and build stronger communities for our families.
- 4. I'm not worried about climate change and I'm not an environmentalist.**
Response: Most people who are voting for climate solutions wouldn't call themselves environmentalists, and they likely do not list climate change as their top concern. They are voting because they have growing concern, and mostly because they care about the health and wellbeing of their children and community.